

IN HONOR OF JAMES J. SWEENEY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor James J. Sweeney of Havertown, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sweeney entered the United States Navy after graduating from high school in 1943, and served aboard the USS Hancock. The Hancock took part in some of World War II's most pivotal battles, including the invasions of the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Mr. Sweeney was honored for his heroic service and awarded the Philippines Liberation Medal, two Battles Stars and a Presidential Unit Commendation.

It was during his time in the Navy, that Mr. Sweeney befriended his shipmate, John Finn. Lieutenant Finn received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions at Pearl Harbor. During the Japanese surprise attack, Lieutenant Finn manned his machine gun and fought off the Japanese Zeroes for two and half hours even as he took an onslaught of bullets and shrapnel. And for the past nine years, James Sweeney has tirelessly worked to honor Lieutenant John Finn, who passed away in 2009. On February 15th, 2011, those efforts proved successful as the Navy announced that a new guided missile destroyer will be named the USS John Finn. For these efforts Mr. Sweeney is being honored by American Legion Post 667 in Havertown. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I congratulate Mr. Sweeney on his efforts to ensure that Lieutenant Finn's name and legacy lives on, and for his service during World War II, reflecting great credit upon himself and the United States Navy.

IN MEMORY OF HELEN HANSFORD

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my dearest friends and a jewel of southern Kentucky, the late Helen Hansford.

Helen was a staunch Republican since the day she was old enough to officially register, at the age of 21. From then on, she stood firm on conservative principles with her sweet southern charm. Helen became a member of the Republican Women's Club in 1966, served as an executive committee member of Kentucky's Republican Party for more than 20 years, and attended every Republican National Convention since 1984, until news of a malignant brain tumor interrupted her plans in 2011.

Helen's husband, the late Sherman Hansford, served as Pulaski County Sheriff for many years. During his service, Helen was right by Sherman's side, serving as a deputy sheriff and office clerk. She had a passion for public service and believed in being a part of transforming her hometown and helping others succeed. In fact, Helen's heartbeat raced for the children in Pulaski County Schools. As the Executive Assistant to the Pulaski County Schools Superintendent and a member of the Pulaski County Board of Education, Helen

never hesitated to take on the reins of responsibility when action was needed. Yet, she was always a true lady, winning over hearts with her generous spirit and words of encouragement.

When Helen believed in a cause, she invested herself into its success with every ounce of energy she had to offer. She devoted more than 50 years to numerous boards and agencies, including the Order of the Eastern Star, Kentucky Public Retirees, along with local, state and national Republican politics. In honor of her tireless dedication, Helen was recently inducted into the Pulaski County Lincoln Club Hall of Fame and the Republican 5th District Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an irreplaceable friend to southern Kentucky, the late Helen Hansford.

IN HONOR OF CHARLOTTE
ELLSWORTH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of a remarkable mother, wife, friend, and public servant. Charlotte Ellsworth passed away just before Christmas. I had the great fortune of meeting her through her work at the Fort Ord Reuse Authority, where I often encountered her during meetings or events related to the reuse of Fort Ord. At FORA, Charlotte was the ever present cheerful voice on the phone or steady presence at sometimes heated public meetings. I know that all of us who have worked with FORA, either as community leaders, members of the public, or her colleagues, will miss her very much.

Charlotte was born in Carmel, California, on January 5, 1953. Her family lived in Seaside, California, at the time, but moved to nearby Prunedale in 1954. Her father was a painter and foreman of a glass shop on Fort Ord and was eventually promoted as Engineer of the Presidio of Monterey. She attended Echo Valley Elementary School in Prunedale and graduated from Watsonville High School in the class of 1970.

Charlotte was a lifelong member of the Las Lomas Full Gospel Church in Watsonville, where she married Kenneth Ellsworth, a soldier at Fort Ord, in 1974. In 1975, Charlotte and Ken moved to Castroville, where she lived until her passing. Charlotte and Ken welcomed a son, Kenneth Jr., in 1976. Kenneth Jr. and his wife, Edith, both serve as police officers in Salinas, California. They recently welcomed a baby girl, Alyssa, who was the light of Charlotte's life and who Ken Sr. laughingly says "will not be a police officer."

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in extending our condolences to Charlotte Ellsworth's family, friends, and colleagues. The loss of such a remarkable person is particularly painful. I hope that all of those affected by her early passing can take comfort in the remarkable difference that she made in the lives of all those that she touched.

CONGRATULATING THE 2012 BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an exceptional group of young men who, for the second year in a row, have distinguished themselves as the undisputed national champions of college football. On January 7, 2013, the University of Alabama Crimson Tide captured the BCS National Championship with a decisive 42 to 14 victory over the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame.

By clinching their third BCS national championship in four years, the Crimson Tide has cemented their place in college football history and prompted some to ask if this remarkable team might be unequalled in the storied annals of the game.

As Kevin Scarbinsky of the Birmingham News observed in a January 8 op-ed,

All the while Notre Dame was reliving history, Alabama was making it. All over the golden domes of the Fighting Irish. Only one team played like a champion Monday in the BCS National Championship Game. Only one team shook down the thunder with old-school football and woke up the echoes of the greatest dynasties in the sport. Yea Alabama. The Crimson Tide became the third program in the poll era of college football history to win a third national championship in four years by taking apart the first program to do it. The Notre Dame champions of 1946, 1947 and 1949 would appreciate the Alabama champions of 2009, 2011 and 2012 because Alabama's third title came at Notre Dame's expense, right in Notre Dame's face.

Given that Alabama plays in a Southeastern Conference that's won seven straight BCS titles, in a state with a rival in Auburn that interrupted this parade with its own championship, we're witnessing the greatest run in college football history. Greater than Notre Dame in the 1940s, Alabama in the 1970s or Nebraska in the 1990s.

To win it again Monday was special. To do it against Notre Dame, Alabama's historical nemesis, was memorable. To leave no doubt on the scoreboard leaves no doubt in the debate. This was history. This is a dynasty. The best we've ever seen. The best there's ever been.

Congratulations to head coach Nick Saban, and coaches Burton Burns, Mike Groh, Doug Nussmeier, Jeff Stoutland, Jeremy Pruitt, Kirby Smart, Lance Thompson, Bobby Williams, Chris Rumph, Scott Cochran, and Joe Pannunzio. And, above all, congratulations to the 2012 BCS Champion Crimson Tide football team: Edward Aldag, Ryan Anderson, Jonathan Atchison, Dakota Ball, Parker Barrineau, Kenny Bell, Deion Belue, Jerrod Bierbower, Chris Black, Chris Bonds, Hunter Bush, Brent Calloway, Caleb Castille, Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, Landon Collins, Levi Cook, Amari Cooper, Trey DePriest, Denzel Devall, Quinton Dial, Josh Dickerson, Xzavier Dickson, Dillon Drake, Kenyan Drake, Dustin Ellison, Phillip Ely, Malcolm Faciane, LaMichael Fanning, D.J. Fluker, Cade Foster, Jalston Fowler, Kurt Freitag, John Fulton, Brandon Greene, Adam Griffith, Caleb Gullette, Rowdy Harrell, Dee Hart, Tyler Hayes, Ben Howell, Adrian Hubbard, Brandon Ivory, Kelly Johnson, Nico